

Appl. No. 09/847,835
Amendment Date: January 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2004

Remarks and Arguments

1. Claims 1 – 4, 6, 8 – 15, 17, 19 – 24, 26 and 28 -32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102. The Office Action purports that the method and various embodiment thereof as claimed by the Applicant are anticipated by US Patent No. 6,327,686, to Grundmann et al. (hereinafter Grundmann '686).

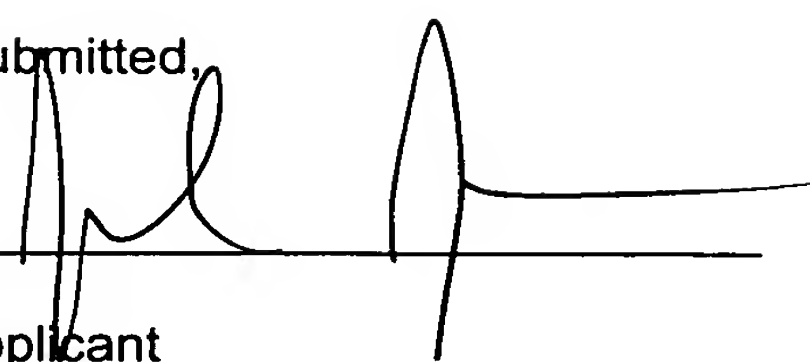
Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28 in order to further clarify the present method and embodiments thereof. Grundmann '686 fails to teach the identification of circuit conditions including one or more of a noise event, a coupling event, a race event and a dynamic hazard as currently claimed in Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 – 4, 6, 8 – 15, 17, 19 – 24, 26 and 28 -32 be withdrawn.

2. Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in Claims 5, 7, 16, 18, 25 and 27. The Examiner has suggested that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form. Applicant notes that these claims are dependant on Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28, which are currently amended and which are no longer anticipated by Grundmann '686 in their amended form. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 5, 7, 16, 18, 25 and 27 be further considered as allowable in their current form.

3. Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present method and all claimed embodiments thereof to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States patent.

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Respectfully submitted,



Jack I. J'maev
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,669

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10 Intellectual Property Development
187 W. Orangethorpe Ave
Suite H
Placentia, CA 92870
(714) 961-1981 Phone
15 (714) 961-1981 Fax